

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) on Thursday voted to pass the House version of the Transportation-Housing Appropriations bill, which will fund the U.S. Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

The House version of the bill includes three local projects, including funds for two food banks.

"Thousands of families on the Central Coast are facing hard times, and this bill will help local service agencies provide food to many who would otherwise go hungry," said Rep. Farr. "We face a balancing act on providing help to those who need it while at the same time improving our infrastructure to help jumpstart our economy. I think this bill achieves that balance."

Local projects included in the bill:

- Food Bank for Monterey County: \$150,000. The food bank has seen unprecedented demand for its services. These funds will go toward acquisition of equipment and a vehicle.
- Community Food Bank of San Benito County: \$150,000. Record numbers of families are relying on assistance from the food bank. Funds will go toward purchasing the building that the food bank currently leases.
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail: \$800,000. Funds will go toward the 52-mile-long multi-use pathway linking existing and newly established trail segments into a continuous coastal trail around the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The trail will help drive economic development and generate tourism revenue.

In addition to projects on the Central Coast, the legislation includes a range of other national programs including:

- Federal Transit Administration: \$10.5 billion. Includes funds for urban and rural transit systems.
- Highways: \$41.1 billion. Funds will improve and repair our nation's aging highway infrastructure.
- Modernizing Air Traffic Control: \$2.9 billion. Money will go to modernize the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control system.

- Veterans Housing Vouchers: \$75 million. Will provide 10,000 housing vouchers for homeless veterans.

The bill, which passed by a vote of 256-168, awaits Senate consideration. Once the Senate acts, the two versions will be reconciled, then sent to the president for signature.

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